

The Tenant Farmer

More Than a Trade Union or Farm Journal
Devoted to Extending Democracy On the Home Front

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Farm Bureau Advocates Abolition Of Tenant Program

That an open drive is now underway for breaking up the program of the Farm Security Administration is revealed by widespread attacks being made on this agency by the Farm Bureau in mass meetings of cotton planters in many Southern states. County newspapers are reporting these meetings and giving editorial support to these attacks. "A Union of Southern cotton planters," the Farm Bureau Federation, demands that the Rural Rehabilitation program be abolished and needy farm families be put on WPA. The Tenant Purchase Programs of the FSA would also be turned over to the State Extension and Soil Conservation Services and administered by the county agents whom they control.

Having put through the 77th Congress the measure to provide for increased government loans on cotton and other farm products over the opposition of President Roosevelt and officials of the Department of Agriculture, the Farm Bureau now seeks the destruction of the only agency of government that has given any help to the little man of the land.

In Alabama, which is the home of Edward O'Neal, National President, the Farm Bureau is arousing considerable sentiment in favor of abolition of the tenant program. The Farm Security Administration is charged with interfering with labor and administering its program in such a way that landlords are unable to secure farm hands to work on their plantations for little or no pay.

Two-thirds of the farm families in Alabama are tenants or sharecroppers and one out of every ten is a client of Farm Security Administration. The Alabama Farm Bureau claims a membership of 26,000 while FSA has 31,000 families on its program. The big landlords are organized while the FSA clients and 275,000 more farm families just like them are unorganized. The Southern Tenant Farmers Union, which is now being extended to all southern states, is just beginning organization in Alabama.

The Farm Bureau started out as a landlords' organization prior to the last world war and was formed locally to secure the services of a trained agricultural expert in each county, "A County Agent." Often the members of the Farm Bureaus put up his entire salary. The County Agent was usually the Secretary-Treasurer of the Bureau or held another important office.

Indirectly sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, a meeting of various state federations was held in Chicago in November of 1919 and a national organization formed. In 1939, the Farm Bureau reported 400,000 members in 40 states. State organizations, however, are autonomous and often repudiate the National Program. In Texas, the State Farm Bureau Federation in convention pledged its support to the Farm Security Administration.

When the county agents took over the operation of the AAA program, they practically ceased being agricultural experts and began using their offices to build up membership in the Farm Bureau. Letters were sent out on letterheads of the Department of Agriculture

FARM LABOR CAMPS IN MISSOURI



Photo by Farm Security Administration

EX-SHARECROPPERS MOVE IN

Located at Kennett, Wardell and Wyatt, these labor homes projects, housing nearly 200 families, were developed by the Farm Security Administration following the eviction from the land of members of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union who camped on the roadside in the winter of 1939.

S.T.F.U. On the Radio Friday, July 18, 6:15 a.m. Over WMC

H. L. Mitchell, Secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, delivered an address to listeners of Radio Station WBRC, Birmingham, on the afternoon of June 13. On June 19th similar address was delivered over the Texas Quality Network Farm and Home Program, heard each morning at 6 o'clock, over Stations WOAI, San Antonio; WFAA, Dallas; KPRC, Houston, and WTAW of College Station. The subject of these radio broadcasts was "The Minimum Wage Law for Farm Labor." Free mimeographed copies may be had by writing the Memphis office.

Script has also been submitted to the Columbia Broadcasting System for scheduling over "Columbia's Country Journal," originating in St. Louis. An address is to be given over WMC, Memphis, Tenn., Friday, July 18th, at 6:15 a.m., as a part of the Mid-South Farm Program heard each morning at this time.

urging farm people to join the Bureau. Threats were reported to have been made that unless farmers joined the Bureau, the government benefits would be withheld.

Supporting the "New Deal" in agriculture solely because of government subsidy payments and always critical of any effort made by the government to help the little man on the land, the Farm Bureau went along for eight years supporting the Administration. The break is now in the open. The Department of Agriculture has issued a memorandum forbidding County Agents and other officials on its payroll from serving as officers of any farm organization.

People Come First

By GEORGE C. STONEY

Down in Alabama's black prairie land, that big sweep of old cotton country belting the center of the state, there has been a lot of moving in the past few years. Tenant families by the hundreds are moving, some of whom never before "got out of chicken range" from the plantation quarter where they chopped cotton, and their fathers chopped cotton before them.

The big moving can be explained in a single sentence.—Cotton fields are being turned into beef cattle ranges, and a plantation turned to grazing needs less than a fifth the labor used when cotton was the main crop.

Operators face this truth, like it or not. The men who have turned from cotton to beef cattle are making money. Those who stuck to cotton have failed, or are failing, and their places are being taken over by others who succeed by going into the cattle business.

A cowboy from Oklahoma and 300 beef cattle live on one plantation where twenty-two tenant families were making some kind of living out of cotton in 1939. He has one day hand to help him. Near this place another old cotton farm was turned into grasslands. Some of the tenants asked a stranger who was to operate the new place if there was any chance for them to stay on.

"He tole us," reports the leader of the group, "that ef we was white-face cows we could stay heah."

Well, the stranger did not buy that plantation. Instead, it has been leased and is being operated by the tenant families who were living there before. Other land around has been drawn into the venture and now 8,200 acres is

(Continued on Page 2)

PEOPLE COME FIRST

(Continued from Page 1)

being operated by 67 Negro farmers. Capital and direction has been furnished by the Farm Security Administration. Now these former cotton croppers are going into the cattle business themselves!

No families have been displaced, however. For this Black Belt Leasing Cooperative (southern end of Hale County) chose dairy rather than beef cattle as its main source of income. Each family has about ten cows. They still have a little cotton patch, too, but they aren't counting on it much. Like other farmers working with direction from Farm Security, each family is trying to grow a smokehouse full of food, so the cash they take to the store can buy shoes and shirts instead of sowbelly and salmon.

II.

Between 1935 and 1940 about 40,000 farm families in Alabama left, or were forced off, the land, a larger number displaced than in any other state save Texas. Georgia came close behind. Some of these farmers have found work in town, but Farm Security has found many of them asking for shelter in the migratory labor camps it has put up to help a few of the thousands of families who follow the crops in Florida truck fields. As the agency of the Department of Agriculture set up especially to aid the tenant and small farmer, Farm Security is naturally very much concerned about the welfare of these people. Its main attention now is being paid not to relieving some of the discomforts of the migrant worker once he hits the road, but of working out ways he can stay—and make a living—on his old farm.

The 67 Hale County farmers are being helped out with their Leasing Association as one of Farm Security's many attempts to work out new ways of helping tenants stay on the land. In the southeastern region, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, about 2,400 families are taking part in community projects begun by it, or turned over to it for management. These "projects" are frankly experimental.

This group of 2,400 does not seem important when compared with the hundreds of thousands of distressed families, but Farm Security officials feel they can make a more certain future if they try things out a step at the time. The tenant-purchase program, through which 5,400 former tenants are becoming land-owners in the southeast is hitting at this problem, too.

A system for more immediate aid on a large scale Farm Security has its Rehabilitation program, with which some 80,000 families in the southeast are cooperating.

III.

The rehabilitation program operates on an individual family basis. Any farmer who cannot get furnish elsewhere and agrees to try a different method of farming is accepted as a cooperator. He gets a loan to buy the equipment he needs to be an independent operator, with interest at five percent, and has an agricultural expert to help him plan out his crops.

A man's word that he is willing to work is the only security Farm Security has for these loans. When the program was started six years ago many bankers declared: "Those folks will never pay back." But they have. Borrowers in the southeastern region have paid back, through 1940, 35 percent of the amount outstanding, plus interest. Most of the rest is yet due, under the five year repayment plan.

More important is the improvement these small farmers have made in their way of living. Folks said tenant farmers could never learn to keep farm records. Thousands of them have learned, Farm Security supervisors realize many of the borrowers had been kept in the field when they should have been learning arithmetic, so they have worked out simple bookkeeping schemes and take time to explain

matters. Folks said wives of sharecroppers, especially those 40 or 50 years old, could never learn to use pressure cookers. A large majority of Farm Security's cooperating housewives now operate their own pressure cookers. Last year they canned an average of 220 quarts each. Some of them have done such a good job that "egg money" will buy all the food they have to buy at the store.

IV.

The basis for any kind of progress on the farm is secure land tenure. Farm Security insists that cooperators have written agreements with landlords, leases stating the rent or split of the crop, the division of duties and profits from conservation programs, the cropping plan and agreements about farm and home upkeep. At first landlords were slow to take to such leases. They were not used to signing papers with their tenants. Now, after the program is six years old and 92 percent of the tenant co-operators have written leases.

More recently long term leases have been sought, so farmers would be encouraged to do "all year around" farming and get the benefit from his own land improvement. This 1941 crop year half of the cooperators in Region Five have leases extending two years or longer, and 31 percent of them have agreements running for five years. Members of the Black Belt Leasing Cooperative have a 20-year lease, with option to buy.

V.

Looking toward the long future, agricultural officials see a rough road ahead for the small farmer, so long as he tries to compete with the big fellow in his old, unorganized, ornery-independent way. A cooperative movement is spreading among Farm Security borrowers, and this is why the Administration is encouraging it with loans and technical assistance. Jacks, registered bulls and boars; tractors, combines and peanut pickers; potato curing houses, peach packing sheds and gins; veterinary service, medical care and dental treatment—these are some of the things Farm Security cooperators have because they are banded together.

This spring borrowers in most counties formed "Cooperative Purchasing and Marketing Associations." One county group saved over \$1,000 on fence wire alone. When the FOOD for DEFENSE program came along, and about three million baby chicks had to be bought, along with several thousand milk cows and heifers and brood sows, with feed and equipment to care for the lot, these associations were ready to do the job. Now they are beginning to handle the marketing of fryers. Conservatively estimated, cooperative buying saved the 55,000 farmers participating in this program an estimated half million dollars.

VI.

The most important crop any farming country can produce is people. Since time began the country has not only fed and clothed the cities, but has furnished their inhabitants. O. E. Baker, Department of Agriculture Sociologist, has found that the rural south is furnishing the bulk of America's increase in population. Our large cities are replenished each year by thousands of farm-bred boys and girls.

Until recently all the attention of agriculturists was focused on greater production, on the motto: "two blades of grass where one would grow." The creation of Farm Security within the Department of Agriculture was our government's first step in the protection and development of PEOPLE on the land.

Of course there are a great many things no government agency can do, things that under a democracy farmers are privileged to organize together and do for themselves. No man has ever been able to find security on the land, or anywhere else, working alone.

CONTRIBUTORS

To The Tenant Farmer

George C. Stoney, who contributes the article, "People Come First," is the Assistant Adviser, Information Division, Farm Security Administration, Region V, Montgomery, Alabama. Mr. Stoney is a native of North Carolina and is a frequent contributor to magazines, among them, "The Nation."

An article by Leonard Herron of the Information Division Farm Security Administration, Region VIII, Dallas, Texas, will appear in the August issue.

Clarence Senior, whose article, "Land and Liberty South of the Border," appeared in the last issue, is a part-time resident of Mexico City and has made an extensive study of the agrarian problems of that country. He is also on the faculty of the University of Kansas City.

Union Locals Set Up Libraries

A large number of books contributed to the STFU by the Brunswick, New Jersey, F.O.R., The New Jersey College for Women, Mr. Howenstein of the State Teachers College of Michigan, Mr. Gordon Ward of Blackburg, Virginia, and others are being put in use by setting up libraries in a number of long established STFU locals.

Farm Employment Down

The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports a decrease in the total number of persons employed on farms throughout the United States of nearly a quarter million.

According to the "Farm Labor Report," unusual weather conditions affected the need for farm workers. The Western states have had a wet season while the Eastern states have suffered greatly from the drouth. Also the draft and openings in industry were given as basic causes for the shortage of farm labor.

News From Earle

Good news comes from Earle, Arkansas, once a center of terror against union members. C. J. Spradling and Rev. Leo Maxwell report that the Earle local is being re-organized. Both have been given commissions as volunteer organizers and are working in Crittenden and Cross Counties.

America's Citizens Underfed

Nine hundred experts met in Washington last month at the first "National Nutrition Conference" and found that while the people in the U. S. A. were better fed than anywhere else in the world, at least 45 millions were undernourished, a like number eating the wrong kinds of food and many of the rest suffering from over-eating.

For good health, the conference urged all citizens to eat the following foods: One pint of milk for each adult and more for children; a serving of meat, one egg or a substitute such as navy beans; two vegetables, one of which should be green; two fruits, oranges, grapefruit or tomatoes; breads made of flour or meal; butter or oleo with vitamin A added; plus other foods to satisfy the appetite. Such a basic diet costs over 24 cents per person.

The experts made no recommendations as to how families living on 75 cents to \$1.25 per day were to buy these foods. However, Paul V. McNutt, Federal Security Administrator, who called the conference, declared, "I would want no nutritionist to go home and feel complacent because the problem is recognized. It is time for action."

Men Of The Land

By H. L. MITCHELL, Secretary

Now It Can Be Told

With W. M. Tanner, Roy Parks, and Rev. J. A. Woods I visited two of the Farm Labor Camps in Southeastern Missouri recently, where we met and talked with G. A. Crane and S. D. Greer, Managers of the projects located near the towns of Kennett and Wardell.



H. L. MITCHELL

130 Farm families dispossessed from their place on the land are now occupying nice comfortable homes at a rental of \$3.00 per month. 80 families are housed in the Negro project at Wardell while 50 white families are living near Kennett. A similar project is located at Wyatt. A proposal for these projects was submitted to officials of the Farm Security Administration in Washington on November 30, 1939, by F. R. Betton and I on behalf of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. The memorandum we submitted was followed in detail by FSA in developing the housing projects. Vice-President Betton, who had handled the distribution of relief to the evicted farm families who sat down on the highways of Missouri in the winter of 1939, and I pooled our knowledge and prepared the memorandum to the Farm Security Administration. We were asked to give out no publicity until the camps in Missouri were actually in operation. (Copies of the memoranda are available to those interested.)

A Correction

In my column of the May 5 issue, a statement was made that wages of 32c an hour were required by the Wage and Hour Law. This was an error, the figure should have been 30c an hour. Likewise employees of retail business establishments operating across state lines are exempt while workers in wholesale houses are included.

Juneteen in Texas

On June 19th, I delivered an address over the Texas Quality Network's Farm and Home program at 6 o'clock in the morning entitled "A Minimum Wage Law for Farm Labor." I spoke to approximately 20,000 farm families in Texas through Radio Stations WTAU, College Station; WOAI, San Antonio; KPRC, Houston; WFAA, Dallas; two of which are powerful 50,000 watt radio stations, whose listeners live all over the Southwest. A similar address was delivered over WBRC in Birmingham, Alabama, on June 13.

Later in the day I joined J. E. Clayton for a Juneteen celebration in Bastrop, Texas. There I met a number of Texas STFU members, among them W. H. Cunningham, Vice-President of the Littig Local and also the wife of the local's President. I learned that June 19 was the day that Texas Negro slaves first learned of the Emancipation Proclamation. More important to these people than any other day in the year, it is everything but a legal holiday in Texas.

I noted the interest being taken in the election for United States Senator and found every Negro present supporting Lyndon Johnson for the place made vacant by the death of Senator Morris Shepherd. (Lyndon Johnson was defeated by a few votes in the election on June 28.) Texas Negroes vote, paying their poll tax and exercising this right as other American citizens.

J. E. Clayton, STFU organizer, who is widely known and respected among all classes and races in Texas and elsewhere was the speaker of the day at the celebration.

Dyess Colony Elects Officers

Dyess Colony local operating on the Farm Security Administration project in Mississippi County, Arkansas, has just elected officers for the year. Ed McGriffin is the President; F. E. Bishop, Vice-President, and B. B. Beville, Secretary. W. M. Tanner, general organizer, attended the meeting and installed the new officers. The Dyess local represents all the people on the project in dealing with the management.

Two Important Books

We acknowledge receipt of two very important books, "Democracy Comes to a Cotton Kingdom," by Clarence Senior, and "Round the World with Cotton," issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The first deals with the experiment in co-operative cotton growing in Mexico and the other presents little known facts about the origin, the extent and importance of cotton throughout the world.

"Democracy Comes to a Cotton Kingdom" may be secured from the League for Industrial Democracy, 112 East 19th Street, New York City, and "Round the World With Cotton" from the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Conference To Be Held In Mexico's Cotton Cooperative Farming Area

An announcement has just been received from Torreon, Mexico, stating that the Fourth Annual Conference on Co-operative Farming will be held in that city August 4, 5 and 6.

The Conference is under the direction of Mr. Clarence Senior, former Secretary of the Socialist Party in the U. S. A. and now a member of faculty of the University of Kansas City.

Details regarding this year's program may be had by writing Clarence Senior, Av. Chapultepec 512 Mexico D. F.

In 1939 and 1940 representatives of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union attended the conferences in Mexico's cotton growing area. The American Friends Service Committee is conducting a Work Camp for young college boys and girls at Torreon and the conference is held each year with their co-operation.

COOPERATION OF FSA ASSURED

Later, I met with Farm Security Administration officials in Oklahoma City before returning to the Memphis office.

A splendid opportunity has opened up to the Southern Tenant Farmers Union to extend its organization throughout both Southeastern and Southwestern states during the next few months.

I have met with the FSA directors and their key people in both the Southeastern and Southwestern region and they are prepared to extend every encouragement to the STFU within the limits of their rules and regulations.

BIG LANDLORDS OPPOSE FAIR WAGE LAW

The Washington Merry-Go-Round, published in many large daily newspapers and written by Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen, reports that the Omnibus bill, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, making sweeping changes in the farm program, originally included a section providing for establishing minimum wage rates for farm labor and leasing agreements for tenants and sharecroppers, has been dropped due to the opposition of leaders of the Farm Bureau and National Grange.

This makes it more necessary than ever that the Southern Tenant Farmers Union put up a strong fight for the immediate enactment of the Langer Minimum Wage Bill.

LETTERS TO THE TENANT FARMER

Trial And Tribulations Of An STFU Organizer

On the 19th day of June I was caught out at night with but two dollars in my pocket. I did not want to get broke and there was no one to take me in. I went to the home of a preacher whom I had fed many times. He was gone and his wife was staying with another family and it hurt her that she could not at least give me a meal.

So I went back into the little town and sat down in front of a cafe and so along came a union member and we sat down and talked together awhile. Afterwards I decided to go down the highway a piece so as to be on my way to the next job. I came to an old field all grown up with short pine and sage grass that had not been burned over in years. About a 100 yards from the highway I found my bed and sure enough I rested fine, taking my satchel for a pillow. What I want to say is that it is not the joy I get out of traveling or the "big salary" of a union organizer but it's the care I have for the people trying to let them see there is a way. Jesus went across rocks and mountains with bleeding feet and sometimes He had no place to lay His head. So I ain't no better than He was, for after all He gave His life and died for us. I am on the road traveling after Him and thought someone might like to know the history of that night. So I am sending it in.

E. O. S.

Dear Sirs:

The American people will have to recapture America. Our forefathers drove the Redman out and fought the Redcoats on Bunker Hill. Many of them died so that we might have a home in this land. Now we find ourselves without homes and without land. We must recapture our own land.

R. E. PARIS,
Florence, Ala.

Dear Tenant Farmer:

Hello, friend. I received your news about jobs. I want you to send me a one-way ticket and I will come. Write right back and tell me what you want me to do. What about the work and what's the pay?

HILARD JOHNSON,
Mashulaville, Miss.

Hudson Shore Labor School,
West Park, New York.

Dear Friends:

I have enjoyed myself very much since I have been here. I find that I know very little about the labor movement so I have lots to learn.

I have to make a speech to all the students and faculty next week so please send me all the good pamphlets on the S.T.F.U., giving me some good facts so I can try to make a very good speech. I will appreciate it very much.

When you see my parents in Forrest City tell them I would appreciate it if they would write me.

Sincerely,

ALBERTA HYNDIS.

P.S.: Tell the office Secretary (Mrs. Wood) that I wish she was with me as everything is wonderful.

Senator Langer Wires

A telegram from Senator Langer, author of the Minimum Wage bill, has been received informing us of the serious illness of his mother in Casselton, North Dakota. No definite date can as yet be announced for his visit to the cotton fields.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN Building The Union

The old Scott local at Portageville, Missouri, was reorganized on June 21 by W. M. Tanner and Roy Parks. It is made up of members from two old locals that had ceased to function due to many of the members of these locals moving away. The reorganized local was given Charter No. 94. We hope to see it grow into one of our strongest.

The Bragg City, Missouri, local No. 84 was reorganized on June 20 by Noah P. Graham. This reorganization was necessary because of the moving away of so many of the members and officers. Indications point to a rapid growth of this local.

On June 14, Vice-President F. R. Betton, J. E. Clayton and Noah P. Graham organized a new local at Parma, Missouri. This local is well for rapid growth here. This local was given situated and is off to a good start. We look Charter No. 93.

Brother Tanner was responsible for setting the Dyess Colony local No. 29 back to work again on June 7 with newly elected officers.

All this represents an up curve in growth of the Union for the month of June over May. There have been a great many other indications of awakened interest besides new and reorganized locals. Some of these are listed below.

Lots of new members joined the already established locals during the past month and an even larger number of old members reinstated.

Successful mass meetings were held in Woodruff and St. Francis Counties in Arkansas, Muskogee and Wagoner Counties in Oklahoma and in Pemiscot and New Madrid Counties in Missouri.

The payment of dues for June showed a substantial advance over May.

There are other less tangible things that indicate a more healthful condition now than we have had for some time.

Recently I have attended local and county meetings in Arkansas and Oklahoma as well as public mass meetings in these states.

Odus Sweeden is introducing recreation programs into the locals in Oklahoma. These programs consist of songs—solos, quartets, class and family singings, readings, recitations, plays and recreational games and forums.

This is an idea that might well be followed by other organizers and County Councils. Such programs not only help to stimulate interest and attendance at local meetings but are very worthwhile in building character and in spreading information.

We have several hundred books of almost every kind including school text books, fiction, children's books, reference books, etc. There are enough of these books to stock several good small libraries. Each local that is interested in getting enough of these books to start a library, should have its Educational Committee get in touch with us. The books will be given only to locals that show promise of being well established and able to care for them and use them to good advantage.

Once you have such a library established, you will find it easy to add to it by getting books and bulletins free from the government and from state college and experiment stations. A system of exchanges can be worked out so that when the members of one local have read all the books you have, you can exchange all your books with some other local.

Uncensored News From England

Arriving promptly every month, "The Land-worker," official organ of The National Agricultural Workers Union of Great Britain brings us news of problems faced by farm people that is not given in censored dispatches printed in the daily newspapers.

A report in the May issue gives the minutes of the Executive on War Problems. Advice is given the farm workers whose homes have been bombed as to how to apply for help from an agency set up by the government. Likewise, protests are filed against the employment of school children on the land. That all foods are rationed and the Union has been able to get increased allowances of cheese and other commodities is also revealed.

A conference between officials of the Union and the Ministry of Agriculture was set for April 30th and they were to discuss the raising of the National minimum wage to 3 pounds or which in normal times amounts to \$15 per week.

Due to increased air raids in London, the Union was also looking for an office in an area where its staff and records would be more safe.

IS THIS AMERICA?



A FARM HOME

A sharecropper family along with two mules, three pigs and a flock of chickens, occupy this "home" in St. Francis County, Arkansas. A barbed wire fence is the dividing line between animals and humans who share a common dwelling.

Farming Conditions Good

Crop conditions throughout the Midsouth indicate a better crop than last year, according to a trade letter from the General American Credit Association. The Memphis Manager, James R. Tucker, reports merchants in this area stocking their shelves and increasing retail sales.

Mr. Tucker estimates that cotton and seed will be worth \$80 to \$85 per bale this fall and points out that hardware and farm implement dealers in Memphis report sales of 20 to 30 per cent higher than last year.

Activity within the locals makes for growth so let us translate our faith in the Union into action.

Fraternaly,
J. R. BUTLER

Cooperatives Planned For Half Million Farm People

The Southeastern regional office of the Farm Security Administration has just announced plans for extending co-operative services to over 80,000 families in Alabama, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina. Described as the most widespread venture in co-operative planning ever undertaken in America, the program is designed to effect every phase of farm life in the four state area.

According to E. S. Morgan, Regional Director of FSA, "The plan is undertaken on the theory that cooperation is good business and good democracy. It is the American way. It is the Christian way. It is expected to offer the small farmer these advantages:

"1. To obtain facilities and services which they as individuals could not afford.

"2. To enable them to compete with larger operators.

"3. To enable them to enjoy the benefits of technological improvements.

"4. To help maintain the family-size farm and make it a going concern.

"5. To facilitate change from a one cash crop economy to a diversified crop program.

"6. To provide types of organization and plans of operation which will serve as patterns to guide these same groups in meeting other needs and other groups in obtaining needed services.

"But first and last, the undertaking seeks to give the little farmer an opportunity to work for himself and for and with his neighbors to which his limited individual resources heretofore have been a bar."

The program will include marketing, purchasing and medical services on a co-operative basis. The new division will be handled by Mr. Hubert Bailey with offices in Montgomery, Alabama.

Millions Of Dollars Distributed By AAA In 1939

The largest government benefit payment in the Midsouth for the year 1939 was paid to the Delta Pine and Land Company of Scott, Mississippi, according to a report just released by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in Washington. Mr. Oscar Johnson, the general manager, received on behalf of the largest cotton plantation in the world \$54,946. The Prudential Insurance Company received \$133,191, while the Metropolitan Insurance Company received \$96,332. Eleven other insurance companies received in excess of \$35,000. The report also lists every individual planter receiving more than \$1,000 for participating in the crop control program for 1939. Figures for 1940 are not available.

Henry Ford Signs Up

The Ford Motor Company has just signed a contract with the United Automobile Workers providing that all employees must belong to the Union. Dues will be checked off by the company. The Ford Service Squad will be abolished and from now on Ford cars will carry the union label.

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